

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-6 are currently pending. Claim 1 is independent and hereby amended. No new matter has been introduced. Support for this amendment is provided throughout the Specification as originally filed.

Changes to the claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0004984 to Chou (referred to in the Office Action as "David").

In view of the above amendments, Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Independent claim 1, as amended, recites, *inter alia*:

"data format converting means for automatically determining the type of terminal apparatus of a user other than the user in question and for performing a data format converting process;

...

wherein, in response to a use request from any user other than the user in question, said data format converting means automatically converts stored data of the user in question into a format compatible with the type of the terminal apparatus used by the user other than the user in question for connection to the system, the converted data being used by said terminal apparatus through which said user other than the user in question has sent said use request." (emphases added).

As understood by the Applicants, Chou discloses a transcoder server to transcode a first webpage language to a second language for a mobile phone or to create personal wireless webpages and store the created personal webpages in a user's profile database for future use. The output can be selected and outputted according to the used mobile phone or PDA. Thus, in Chou the transcoded pages are associated only with the user's mobile phone or PDA. The pages are transcoded dependent upon which of a user's terminals are being used by the user.

The Office Action points to Chou par. [0020]-[0025] for the above highlighted feature of claim 1. However, Chou only discusses the transcoding a user's webpage for use in one of the user's devices to another of the user's devices. *See, also, FIGS. 1 and 2. There is no disclosure that the pages of the user ("user in question" of the present application) are transcoded dependent upon the terminal device of a second user ("user other than the user in question" of the present application) and then provided to the second user.*

In contrast, claim 1 recites, "wherein, in response to a use request from any user other than the user in question, said data format converting means automatically converts stored data of the user in question into a format compatible with the type of the terminal apparatus used by the user other than the user in question for connection to the system . . ." In present invention there are multiple users each being able to access the stored data of other users through any of the one or more terminal apparatuses used by the users other than the user in question.

The present application enables not only the user who stored data (“user in question”) into the system but also other users to use the stored data of the user in question. The other users’ terminal type is automatically determined by the present system and the stored data are automatically converted to the format compatible with the terminal apparatus of the other user that happens to be in use. Different users can thus share the stored data in a flexible manner regardless of the type of the terminal apparatus used for connection to the system or the location where the connection is established with the system. Publ. App. par. [0063].

Thus, in the present invention, data from the apparatus of a user in question (who provided data to the system) is provided to a requesting user other than the user in question in a format compatible to the requesting user. That is, in the present invention, there are multiple users connected to the system, each user having one or more terminal apparatuses. The system stores data from each user’s respective terminal apparatus. In response to a request from another user other than the user who stored the data, the system converts the data stored by the user into a format compatible with the terminal apparatus of the another user and provides the data in the compatible format.

This feature is not disclosed in Chou because that reference does not disclose a data storage system serving multiple users each having a plurality of data devices wherein data is transferred from one user in a certain format to another user using a different format.

III. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 2-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Chou in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0037241 to Puri.

Puri does not add the element missing from Chou as discussed above.

Claim 2 is dependent from claim 1. Thus, claim 2 is patentable over Chou and Puri for the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1.

IV. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims are dependent from one of the claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Claims 1-6 are in condition for allowance. In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with respect to the disclosure in the cited reference, or references, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the reference, or references, providing the basis for a contrary view.

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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